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October 8, 1991

Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, MD 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Thank you for your letter concerning Shookstown Road. In the last Capital Improvements Program (CIP), we requested that the county commissioners participate with the city for funding to improve Shookstown Road. They declined to do so. We are reinstituting our request again for the CIP for fiscal '93.

Although you say the state of Shookstown Road is a city problem, as I have tried to explain in the past, it is a county problem also because a multitude of county residents use that particular road. Many of them transverse Shookstown Road to get to Route 15 in order to reach jobs outside both the city and county.

Since city taxpayers pay county taxes, we should expect the same financial contribution that the county government receives to be given to city taxpayers. County government is taking a different approach to the problem, and fails to fund the city's budget for roads used by county residents.

Although I understand your concern about the city's responsibility, I am surprised that you fail to express the same concern about the county's responsibility.

The bridges at Waverly Drive and Shookstown Road ~~was~~ were recently found to be in deplorable condition, and will require over a $20,000 expenditure to make it safely passable for loads up to six tons. That is being funded by the city even though we have put in a request to the county for the funds that might be available.

The one-way bridge at Shookstown Road and Rosemont Avenue is being rebuilt at a cost of $80,000; paid for completely with city funds even though it is used by an increasingly substantial number of county residents.

Unfortunately, the city does not have unlimited funds and must direct those funds to where it sees the greatest need.

City Hall, 101 North Court Street, Frederick, Maryland 21701-5415

(301) 694-1440
FAX: (301) 662-4819

The city taxpayers represent the largest block of funds received by the county. We represent 26% of the county's population and probably 30% of the county's tax base. For this fiscal year, the city will receive about $600,000 in reimbursement from the county operating costs. That is for police protection, parks and bulk trash collection. We do not receive reimbursement for streets. In other words, the residents of Frederick City receive nothing from the county for street repairs even though the rest of the county who do not live in municipalities receive full maintenance from the county. Therein lies the problem, Mr. Weisberg, and despite your concerns expressed to me, I would suggest to you that they are misdirected.

Sincerely,

PAUL P. GORDON
Mayor
City of Frederick

PPG:bsz